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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An electric power steering device comprising:

a rack bar converting a rotational motion of a steering shaft to a longitudinal, linear motion and changing a steering angle;

'a motor rotationally driving a motor shaft based on a steering torque generated by said steering shaft, said motor shaft forming a diagonal intersection with said rack bar; and drive transmission means transmitting a rotational drive from said motor shaft to said rack bar as an auxiliary propulsion force;

said drive transmitting means comprising:

a drive gear rotating in tandem with said motor shaft and formed as a bevel gear with linearly extending teeth;

a ball screw mechanism disposed co-axial with said rack bar and converting rotational motion to linear motion;

and a driven gear rotating in tandem with a nut of said ball screw mechanism, meshing with and moving in tandem with said drive gear, and formed as a bevel gear with linearly extending teeth; and

backlash for said drive gear or said driven gear or backlash between said drive gear and said driven gear can be adjusted in a continuous, non-stepped manner.

2. (Original) The electric power steering device as described in claim 1, wherein at least one of said drive gear and said driven gear is secured after being moved in an axial direction.

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3. (Original) The electric power steering device as described in claim 2, wherein said motor shaft and said drive gear form one of a serration fit and a spline fit, and said drive gear is rotatably supported by an inner housing secured to said housing after being moved in an axial direction relative to said housing.

- 4. (Original) The electric power steering device as described in claim 2, wherein said nut and said driven gear are integral within said housing, and said driven gear is rotatably supported by an inner housing secured to said housing after being moved in an axial direction relative to said housing.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The electric power steering device as described in claim 1, wherein at least one of said teeth of said drive gear and said teeth of said driven gear is movable along a pitch eire circle.
- 6. (Currently Amended) The electric power steering device as described in claim 1, wherein at least one of a section of said teeth of said drive gear and a section of said teeth of said deiven driven gear is movable along a pitch circle.
- 7. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 5, wherein at least one of said drive gear and said driven gear is formed from a first gear serving as a section of a teeth face, a second gear serving as a remaining section of a teeth face, and biasing means biasing said first gear and said second gear toward or away from each other along a pitch circle.

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8. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 6 wherein at lest one of said drive gear and said driven gear is formed from a first gear serving as a section of a teeth face, a second gear serving as a remaining section of a teeth face, and biasing means biasing

said first gear and said second gear toward or away from each other along a pitch circle.

9. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 2, wherein

said housing includes a grease reservoir, disposed below said drive gear and said driven gear,

storing grease.

10. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 3, wherein

said housing includes a grease reservoir, disposed below said drive gear and said driven gear,

storing grease.

11. (Currently Amended) An electric power steering device as described in claim

4, wherein said housing includes a grease reservoir, disposed below said drive gear and said driven

gear, storing grease.

12. (Currently Amended) An electric power steering device as described in

elaim5 claim 5, wherein said housing includes a grease reservoir, disposed below said drive gear

and said driven gear, storing grease.

13. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 6, wherein

said housing includes a grease reservoir, disposed below said drive gear and said driven gear,

storing grease.

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14. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 7, wherein

said housing includes a grease reservoir, disposed below said drive gear and said driven gear,

storing grease.

15. (Currently Amended) An electric power steering device as described in claim

8, wherein said housing includes a grease reservoir, disposed below said drive gear and said driven

gear, storing greas grease.

16. (Currently Amended) An electric power steering device as described in claim

1, wherein a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven

gear to provide a sealing effect.

17. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 2, wherein

a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven gear to

provide a sealing effect.

18. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 3, wherein

a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven gear to

provide a sealing effect.

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19. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 4, wherein a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven gear to provide a sealing effect.

- 20. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 5, wherein a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven gear to provide a sealing effect.
- 21. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 6, wherein a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven gear to provide a sealing effect.
- 22. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 7, wherein a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven gear to provide a sealing effect.
- 23. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 8, wherein a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven gear to provide a sealing effect.

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24. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 9, wherein a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven gear to provide a sealing effect.

- 25. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 10, wherein a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven gear to provide a sealing effect.
- 26. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 11, wherein a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven gear to provide a sealing effect.
- 27. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 12, wherein a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven gear to provide a sealing effect.
- 28. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 13, wherein a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven gear to provide a sealing effect.

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29. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 14, wherein a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven gear to provide a sealing effect.

30. (Original) An electric power steering device as described in claim 15, wherein a seal is disposed between said ball screw mechanism and said drive gear and said driven gear to provide a sealing effect.